

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01

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INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS GENEVA 5892

TEHRAN FOR SIEVERTS, RED CROSS CONFERENCE

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR AORG(ICRC) ME

SUBJECT: VICTIMS IN MIDDLE EAST - ICRC PRESS RELEASE

ICRC ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE TODAY:

QTE SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, THE PARTIES TO THE MIDDLE-EAST CONFLICT HAVE MADE THE FULL OR PARTIAL APPLICATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS CONDITIONAL ON RECIPROCITY, OR THE FULFILMENT OF THEIR HUMANITARIAN DUTIES SUBORDINATE TO POLITICAL OR MILITARY REQUIREMENTS.

THE RESULT OF THIS HAS BEEN THAT THE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY WOUNDED ARE NOT EVACUATED, THAT WOUNDED PRISONERS OF WAR ARE NOT REPATRIATED, THAT NUMEROUS PRISONERS OF WAR ARE NOT VISITED, THAT FAMILIES HAVE NO NEWS OF THE MISSING, AND THAT NOTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT THE CONDITION OF CIVILIANS IN THE NEWLY-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

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THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE COMMITMENTS ARISING OUT OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS ARE OF A FORMAL AND ABSOLUTE NATURE. UNDER THOSE COMMITMENTS, EACH STATE UNILATERALLY UNDERTAKES, TOWARDS ALL OTHER STATES, IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES AND EVEN WITHOUT RECIPROCITY, TO RESPECT THE RULES AND PRINCIPLES THEY HAVE RECOGNIZED AS VITAL. THIS INVOLVES NO INTERCHANGE OF BENEFITS, BUT A FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER THAT WILL PROCLAIM TO THE WORLD THE ESSENTIAL GUARANTEES TO WHICH EVERY HUMAN BEING IS ENTITLED.

THE ICRC HAS THEREFORE CALLED UPON

-- THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO ENABLE IT TO:

- REPATRIATE WOUNDED PRISONERS OF WAR,
- VISIT ALL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD BY THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT,
- CONVEY PRISONER-OF-WAR LISTS NOT YET SUPPLIED.

-- THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO ENABLE IT TO:

- REPATRIATE WOUNDED PRISONERS OF WAR AND ENSURE EVACUATION OF THE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY WOUNDED FROM THE SINAI AND THE SUEZ CANAL AREA,
- FULFILL THE DUTIES LAID UPON IT IN THE NEWLY-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

-- THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT TO ENABLE IT TO

- REPATRIATE WOUNDED PRISONERS OF WAR,
- VISIT ALL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD BY THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT,
- CONVEY LISTS OF ALL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD.

THE ICRC APPEALS TO EACH PARTY TO THE CONFLICT TO APPLY THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS UNCONDITIONALLY AND TO DO EVERYTHING, WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, TO ENSURE REMOVAL OF THE OBSTACLES WHICH STILL PREVENT THE ICRC FROM PERFORMING, WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS, THE DUTIES WHICH ARE INCUMBENT UPON IT AND WHICH IT IS PREPARED TO CARRY OUT IMMEDIATELY. UNQTE.

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